

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08231 221211Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----098982 221212Z /40  
O 221033Z OCT 77 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8840

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8231

NODIS

NEA ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, IS, US  
SUBJECT: STATE OF PLAY ON GENEVA

REF: (A) STATE 253947; (B) STATE 250556

1. I EXPECT TO SEE DAYAN EARLY NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY ON MONDAY MORNING, TO DISCUSS A VARIETY OF MATTERS INCLUDING THOSE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN REFTELS. BEGIN TELEPHONED ME YESTERDAY TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE LATEST PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO HIM AND SAID HE WAS DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ME EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN ME SOONER BUT THAT THE PROBLEM OF COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DMC WAS TAKING MOST OF HIS TIME. (INCIDENTALLY, HE INSISTED THAT HE WAS FEELING FINE AND "AM COMPLETELY RECOVERED." I THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE BELIED HIS INSISTENCE).

2. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE AT A VERY DELICATE STAGE WITH REGARD TO THE "WORKING PAPER." THE ISRAELIS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ASSUMING WE WILL BE COMING BACK TO THEM FOR SOME CHANGES, EVEN WHILE THEY ARE BUSY SAYING IN  
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PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE THAT THEY HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN GO AND THE PROBLEM IS NOW FOR THE ARABS TO ACCEPT THEIR POSITION WITH AT MOST VERY INSUBSTANTIAL CHANGES. I DO NOT KNOW HOW SOON YOU WILL BE READY TO GO BACK INTO THE PROBLEM WITH THE ISRAELIS, AND ASSUME THAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A DEFINITIVE SET OF RESPONSES FROM THE ARAB PARTIES. IN THE MEAN-

TIME HOWEVER, I THINK IT IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY VERY  
IMPORTANT TO STAY IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH BEGIN  
AND DAYAN ON HOW THE PICTURE LOOKS AS THE ARAB  
RESPONSES ARE COMING IN. FOR THIS REASON, I HOPE YOU  
COULD PROVIDE ME, BY MONDAY MORNING IF POSSIBLE OR AS  
SOON THEREAFTER IF NOT, WITH SOME ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE  
OF PLAY WITH THE ARABS WHICH I CAN PASS ON PRIVATELY TO  
BEGIN AND DAYAN. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A DELICATE QUESTION,  
BUT I AM SURE YOU APPRECIATE AS I DO THAT LEAVING THE  
ISRAELIS VERY LONG WITH ONLY WHAT THEY LEARN ABOUT  
ARAB POSITIONS FROM CAIRO AND DAMASCUS NEWSPAPERS IS  
A HIGHLY DANGEROUS PROCEDURE. ALL OF THE ARAB PUBLIC  
STATEMENTS ARE DESIGNED, OF COURSE, IN PART TO EX-  
AGGERATE THE DEGREE OF U.S. AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS.  
TO COUNTERBALANCE THAT EFFECT A CONTINUOUS PRIVATE  
DIALOGUE WITH THE ISRAELIS IS IMPORTANT.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PAPERS, PALESTINIANS, PROGRESS REPORTS, PEACE TALKS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV08231  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P850106-1747  
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**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 253947, 77 STATE 250556  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 813278  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATE OF PLAY ON GENEVA  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PBOR, IS, US, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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